being implemented in a phased manner, with the objective of achieving cure rate of 85% of new sputum positive cases and to detect at least 70% of such cases. Diagnosis by sputum microscopy instead of by X-ray helps in detecting and curing infectious cases on priority. Facilities for diagnosis by sputum microscopy have been decentralized and strengthened. Drugs are provided under observation and patients are monitored so that they complete their treatment. Drugs are provided free of-cost in patient-wise boxes.

DOTS coverage is being rapidly expanded in the country. From 20 million coverage in 1998, about 760 million population has been covered at present. It is envisaged to cover 850 million population by 2004 and the entire country by 205 under the revised strategy.

The project districts have reported a cure rate of more than 80% which means more than 8 out of every 10 patients diagnosed and put on treatment under revised strategy are successfully treated. This is double that of the earlier programme.

In order to check the scourge of the disease and to make the programme more accessible to lager segments of the population, and to supplement the Government efforts in this direction, emphasis is being given to also involve medical colleges, all general hospitals, private practitioners and NGOs in the programme.

Village Health Guide Scheme

2086. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have stopped the Village Health Guide Scheme;

(b)whether it is a fact that in many States particularly in Orissa the village health guides have not received their Rs. 50/- salary continuously for five years; and

-(c) if so, whether Government in consultation with the State Government will take appropriate steps for clearing their wages arrear?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) Yes, Sir. The Central Government's

participation in the Village Health Guide Scheme has been discontinued after IX Plan i.e. with effect from 1-4-2002. The State Governments are free to continue with the Scheme with such modifications as may suit their requirements, from their own resources.

(b) and (c) The Central Government had already released funds to all States/UTs for payment of honorarium to the Health Guides upto 31.03.2002. The funds, thus released to the Government of Orissa during the last five years are indicated below:

(Rs. in lakhs)

Year	Amount Released
1997-1998	69.05
1998-1999	69.23
1999-2000	69.23
2000-2001	34.61
2001-2002	32.89

All States/UTs have been advised to claim their arrears, if any, upto 31.03.2002

Outsourcing of Automobile Parts by Foreign Automobile Companies

2087. SHRI DINA NATH MISHRA: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether foreign Automobile Companies are outsourcing automobile parts and components from Indian companies;

(b) if so, the details thereof and action plan of these multinationals in this regard;

(c) whether these multinationals would set up their R&D bases in the country; if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether it is a fact that Indian automobile parts and components manufacturing companies are excelling in Quantity Management and have established their credibility in the International Market;